

DWR NEWS | *People*

WINTER 2004



Saving Salton Sea Wildlife

The Salton Sea area is the habitat for more than 400 species of resident and migratory birds. More than 50 of these bird species are special status species.



**Saving Salton
Sea Wildlife**
Page 3



**Restoring
Decker Island**
Page 8



**Flood
Protection**
Page 12



**DWR Workers
Battle Fires,
Mudslides**
Page 16



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DWR NEWS/People is
published quarterly by the
California Department of
Water Resources.

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DWR NEWS/People's Web site
is <http://www.oww.water.ca.gov/information/people.cfm>

FUNDED BY THE STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS



Printed on recycled paper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLES

Cover Story: Saving Salton Sea Wildlife	3
Restoring Decker Island	8
Flood Protection Corridor Program	12
DWR Workers Fought October Wildfires	16

PEOPLE PROFILES

Riding Home to Milwaukee via Route 66	27
DWR Ecologist Hopes for Restoration of Iraq's 'Garden of Eden' Marshes	28
35 Years Later—'Aqueduct Empire' and Book's Author Provide Vivid Insights on Water Issues	30
Finding The Law	43

NEWS IN BRIEF

Giving is the Key	19
Salmon Festivals	20
FERC Preview 2004	22
DWR Supervises CCC Flood Prevention Work	24
DWR History Quiz	25
Another Successful C.A.S.T. Event	26

DWR GRADUATES AND AWARDS

DWR's 2003 Annual Awards	32
Meritorious Service Awards & Unit Citations	36
DWR's 2003 Apprentice & PE Graduates	38

DWR PEOPLE NEWS

Retirements	40
25/40 Years of Service	41
New Hires/Promotions	42
Obituaries	42
Birth Announcements	43



SAVING *Salton Sea Wildlife*

QSA Implementation

A sea change in California's Colorado River water policy occurred on October 10, 2003, with execution of the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement. QSA execution triggered requirements of implementing legislation that creates unprecedented State responsibilities for Colorado River water management and for Salton Sea restoration.

"Execution of the QSA represents a new chapter in California's use of Colorado River water, together with recognition of the importance of preserving Salton Sea environmental values," said **Jeanine Jones**, Principal Engineer with DWR's Executive Office.

The QSA is a package of more than 30 agreements among the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, and Imperial Irrigation District. The U.S. Department of the Interior and Departments of Water Resources and Fish and Game are parties to some of the agreements. Among other things, the agreements comprising the QSA implement long-term water transfers from IID to SDCWA and to CVWD, specifically quantify the local agency signatories' allocations of

The Salton Sea is California's largest lake, based on surface area. Located in Riverside and Imperial counties, the sea occupies the lowest part of the Salton Trough, a low-lying structural depression created by tectonic action.

Photos by Steve Payer

Above: During the winter and early spring peak migration season, the Salton Sea is a birder's paradise.

Colorado River water, and provide for the dismissal of pending litigation in federal District Court.

Because use of Colorado River water within California and provisions of the QSA directly affect environmental resources at the Salton Sea, the QSA implementing legislation further provided that the State of California would explicitly assume responsibility for Salton Sea wildlife restoration and for mitigation of certain impacts to the sea. The implementing legislation is contained in three bills amending parts of the Water Code and Fish and Game Code.

SB 277 (Ducheny, Chapter 611, Statutes of 2003)

SB 317 (Kuehl, Chapter 612, Statutes of 2003)

SB 654 (Machado, Chapter 613, Statutes of 2003)

> > [continued on next page](#)



Located in Riverside and Imperial counties, the Salton Sea is California's largest lake.

New Role for Department

The implementing legislation creates major new requirements for the Department. Some specific provisions include:

- SB 277 provided that "It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem."
- SB 317 directs the Secretary for Resources to undertake a Salton Sea ecosystem restoration study and prepare a programmatic environmental impact report/environmental impact statement, all to be completed by December 31, 2006. The Secretary is to establish an advisory committee, composed of specified representatives, to provide input on the study. The Department is conducting the study on behalf of The Resources Agency in coordination with DFG.
- SB 317 further provides that the Department, as part of QSA implementation, will purchase up to 1.6 million acre-feet of water from IID and will sell the water to MWD. Water may be transferred annually from 2003 through 2017. The Department is to deposit the proceeds from sale of the water in the Salton Sea Restoration Fund (administered by DFG) established by SB 277, after covering its costs of administering the transfer. The Department is to be responsible for mitigation of environmental impacts relating to the transfer, which must be consistent with the preferred alternative for Salton Sea restoration identified in the

Secretary's restoration report. The Department will prepare a statutorily required plan regarding use of the transferred water, as well as appropriate environmental compliance documents.

"The Department and DFG have been given major new responsibilities for Colorado River water management activities and for Salton Sea ecosystem restoration," said Jeanine. "The Department is receiving \$20 million in bond funding to carry out the restoration study, and will generate as much as \$300 million from the water transfers for sea restoration."

Salton Sea Background

The Salton Sea is California's largest lake, based on surface area. Located in Riverside and Imperial counties, the sea occupies the lowest part of the Salton Trough, a low-lying structural depression created by tectonic action. The Coachella, Imperial, and Mexicali valleys are part of this trough. Much of the trough lies below mean sea (ocean) level, coming close to Death Valley's record for the lowest elevation in the United States (282 feet below mean sea level). The Salton Sea itself has a water surface elevation of about 227 feet below mean sea (ocean) level.

“The Department is receiving \$20 million in bond funding to carry out the restoration study, and will generate as much as \$300 million from the water transfers for sea restoration.”

—JEANINE JONES,
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER WITH
DWR’S EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The sea is a terminal desert lake, or sink. It is a saline waterbody, as its name suggests. Its present salinity concentration is about 44,000 mg/l, about 25 percent saltier than ocean water. Since the sea has no outlet, its salinity increases over time due to concentration of salts through evaporation.

The main source of inflow to the sea is agricultural runoff, with lesser contributions from municipal effluent and stormwater runoff. Average annual precipitation at the sea is a scant two to three inches, an amount greatly exceeded by average annual evaporation in excess of five feet.

The present sea was formed in 1905 when Colorado River flood flows breached an irrigation diversion structure and temporarily flowed into the then-dry Salton Sink. The present sea is, however, only the latest in a succession of waterbodies occupying the Salton Sink. The sink was once part of the Gulf of California in the distant geologic past. As the Colorado River and its tributaries carved out the Grand Canyon and incised channels in the upper river basin, enormous quantities of sediment thus generated were carried downstream to the river’s mouth. These sediments eventually created a dam, or drainage divide, located near present-day Yuma, Arizona and cut off the Salton Sink from the gulf.

The Colorado River periodically alternated its flow between the sink and the gulf following creation of the drainage divide. As the river channel meandered across a broad expanse of deltaic sediment deposits, high flow events sometimes overtopped the sediments and established new distributaries toward the north. The prehistoric waterbody known as Lake Cahuilla was created when these distributaries flowed into the Salton Sink. The lake, which at its greatest extent stretched from Mexico into the Coachella Valley, eventually evaporated when Colorado River flows returned to the gulf. Lake Cahuilla filled the Salton Sink



More than 50 species of special status birds (threatened, endangered, or species of concern) are at the Salton Sea and its environs.

on several occasions, with a major highstand occurring in the 1500s. Colorado River floodwaters continued to reach the sink after that time, including at least eight times during the 1800s. However, today’s extensive system of water development and control projects in the Colorado River Basin upstream now prevent the river from returning to the sink. The present sea is sustained largely by agricultural runoff from the Imperial and Coachella valleys, which are irrigated with Colorado River water diverted through the All American and Coachella canals.

The present Salton Sea is home to a highly productive fishery and more than 400 species of resident and migratory birds. The endangered desert pupfish, a holdover from the time of Lake Cahuilla, is the only native fish species in the sea. The introduced fish species—dominantly tilapia, Gulf croaker, orangemouth corvina, and sargo—sustain an important sport fishery and provide the food base for numerous fish-eating birds. The sea supports the endangered brown pelican, more than 90 percent of the North American population of eared grebes, and more than 80 percent of American white pelicans. There are more than 50 species of special status birds (threatened, endangered, or species of concern) at the sea and its environs. The sea is a birders’ paradise, especially during the winter/early spring peak migration season. With some 97 percent of California’s historical wetlands having been converted to other land uses, remaining avian rest stops like the Salton Sea are crucial to migratory birds.

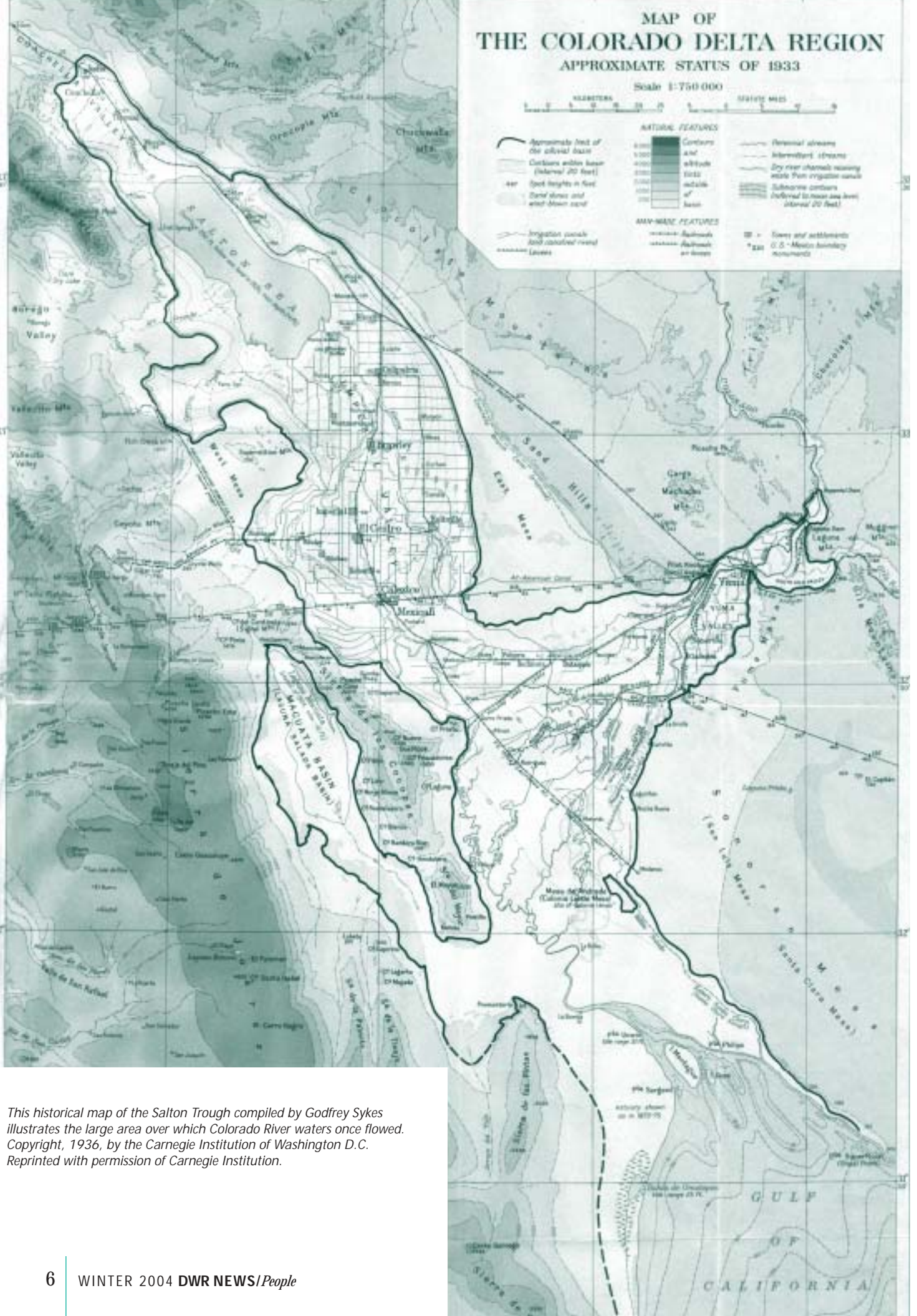
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MAP OF THE COLORADO DELTA REGION APPROXIMATE STATUS OF 1933

Scale 1:750 000

KILOMETERS 0 10 20 30 40 50
STATUTE MILES 0 10 20 30 40 50

- NATURAL FEATURES**
- Contours and altitudes
 - Perennial streams
 - Intermittent streams
 - Dry river channels issuing into the Colorado River
 - Subsidence contours (inferred to mean sea level, interval 20 feet)
- MAN-MADE FEATURES**
- Irrigation canals and abandoned rivers
 - Railroads
 - Towns and settlements
 - U.S.-Mexico boundary
 - Monuments



This historical map of the Salton Trough compiled by Godfrey Sykes illustrates the large area over which Colorado River waters once flowed. Copyright, 1936, by the Carnegie Institution of Washington D.C. Reprinted with permission of Carnegie Institution.



The Salton Trough is a tectonically active area, and is considered one of the world's most active seismic areas. Geothermal activity is prevalent as well—as illustrated by these mudpots near the sea. There are several geothermal energy production areas at the south end of the Salton Sea, along with a major field a short distance south of the Mexican border. The region's high seismicity must be considered in designing alternatives for sea restoration.

Human uses of the sea are varied. Federal lands that constitute much of the sea floor were withdrawn by Executive Order to serve as a repository for the agricultural drainage which sustains the present sea. Archaeological evidence—including prehistoric fish traps—attests to Native American reliance on the prior Lake Cahuilla as a source of food resources.

The present sea was formed in 1905 when Colorado River flood flows breached an irrigation diversion structure and temporarily flowed into the then-dry Salton Sink. The present sea is, however, only the latest in a succession of waterbodies occupying the Salton Sink.

Historically the sea was an important Southern California destination for water-based recreation, especially for boating and fishing opportunities. Birding is an increasingly popular winter tourism activity.

Unless actions are taken to control the sea's increasing salinity, the sea will—relatively soon—become

too saline to support its present fishery and associated avian population. Alternatives for maintaining the entire sea at near-present salinity levels were evaluated during the 1990s, including alternatives involving pipelines to the Pacific Ocean

or to the Gulf of Mexico. These alternatives were not considered to be feasible because of their high costs and major institutional and environmental difficulties. Subsequently, alternatives were proposed that would maintain only a portion of the present sea at present salinity levels, potentially reducing the scope and cost of restoration to a manageable level. The Department and DFG will be examining these “smaller sea” alternatives, as well as other alternatives designed to maximize fish and wildlife resources in the lower Colorado River ecosystem. ■



The Salton Sea is heavily used by shorebirds.



RESTORING *Decker Island*

by Annie Parker

Photos by North Delta and
Levees Program Staff

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a veritable maze of islands and levees with a rich wildlife population, a growing human population, and is a highly important part of the California State Water Project. Decker Island is a 648-acre tract of land in the Delta located in Solano County, which over the past five years has been the site of many improvements to help flood control, water quality, and the native habitat.

Decker Island was formed in the early 1900s when dredging separated a wedge of marshland from Montezuma Hills. Material dredged from the Sacramento River to improve flood control was stacked on top of the isolated marsh thereby creating Decker Island, one of the highest spots in the Delta. The restoration of habitat at Decker Island, which includes removing some of the previously deposited material, satisfies the habitat enhancement goal described in 1996 California Statutes, Chapter 601, part of Assembly Bill 360 that was authored by former DWR Director **Thomas M. Hannigan**.

"Decker Island has the perfect win-win situation because we were able to use the material to strengthen other levees, and in

the same process create valuable habitat in a critical part of the Delta," said **Curt Schmutte**, Chief of the North Delta and Levees Program, which is leading the restoration and levee project.

Repairing the Riparian Forest: Phase I

Before the transformation of the Delta from wildlands to agricultural gold, riparian forests were common in the Delta, due to the intermeshing systems of water and land.

"A riparian forest is that woody vegetation structure that grows in association with a river corridor and its floodplain," said **Kent Nelson**, the project manager on Decker Island who deals specifically with the biological aspects of the project.

In 1999, DWR employees at Central District began the first phase of the project, transforming a 34-acre, Department of Fish and Game-owned parcel at the north tip of Decker Island into diverse wetlands and riparian habitats. Over 350,000 cubic yards of material were removed from the site and transferred to help rehabilitate the levees on Twitchell Island and Webb Tract.



Above: (Left to Right): Fish and Game's Mark Phillip along with Bay-Delta Office's Bob Yeadon and Jim Eckman observing the opening of wetlands to the Sacramento River.

Photo on page 8: At the north end of Decker Island, Beaver cages were placed for the newly planted trees.

"Decker Island has the perfect win-win situation because we were able to use the material to strengthen other levees, and in the same process create valuable habitat in a critical part of the Delta,"

—CURT SCHMUTTE,
CHIEF OF THE NORTH DELTA
AND LEVEES PROGRAM

a resident Delta expert on regional habitats. Plants that were used are local to the Delta and include natural growing willows, cottonwoods to create a forest, coyote grass, and lots of tules around the waterline.

On the Horseshoe Bend side of the site, a breach was created in October 2001 that allowed the Sacramento River to flow into the awaiting wetlands. The new free-flowing water from the river allows water to circulate in the habitat site with the tidal cycle.

"The Decker Island Habitat Enhancement Project provides a unique opportunity to couple levee rehabilitation with habitat improvement," said **Bob Yeadon**, a Senior Engineer in the Bay-Delta Office.

To help recreate tidal wetlands and associated habitat on the excavated sites, DWR enlisted the assistance of **Jeff Hart**,

Below: A breach was created to allow the Sacramento River to flow into the awaiting wetlands.



"Our staff here coordinated with Fish and Game, and various botanical experts who are familiar with ecosystems in the Delta to develop the planting scenarios," said Kent.

The Ongoing Rehabilitation: Phase II

After the success of Phase I, the effort to restore more of Decker Island has continued to grow. Partnered with DFG, the Delta Levees Program will re-establish habitat on the remaining 15 acres of the 34-acre, DFG-owned site. The 270,000 yards of material to be removed for Phase II will be used to rehabilitate levees on Jersey, Bradford, and Van Sickle islands.

"We have a need for huge quantities of material to be able to restore levees. These islands are already below sea level, and you don't want to take additional land off them to make them even deeper. Decker Island is one of the few spots in the Delta that is actually well above sea level," said Curt.

> > > continued on next page



After Phase II's completion, Edward Schmit takes soil samples.

The construction on the land will take about a year, and then there will be a number of years for the habitat to establish itself on the island. But after Phase I, the success of the habitat restoration is evident with the proliferation of native vegetation and wildlife that now visits the island.

"Our biologists have seen river otters, raccoons, Swainson's hawks, harriers, migratory songbirds, numerous reptiles, and both native and non-native fish species," said Bob.

Looking Ahead: Phase III

In the future, DWR is coordinating with the California Bay-Delta Authority and other agencies to restore an additional 400 acres of the land, which would cover almost all of Decker Island. If DWR is able to purchase the additional land, the Phase III part of the restoration will begin in a few years.

"We hope to continue restoration on the remainder of the island employing the principles of adaptive management - learning from each phase of this effort," said Bob.

Since part of the land that is being restored on Decker Island belongs to the Department of Fish and Game, DWR and DFG employees have been working together for habitat improvement. Among the DFG employees are **Bob Orcutt**, **Todd Gardner**, and **Mark Phillips**.

DWR also has recently teamed with personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, research scientists from U.C. Davis,

Strengthening the Island

Approximately a year after completion of a 15-acre wetlands habitat restoration project on the interior of Decker Island, DWR employees were faced with a new problem on the waterside. Along the northern bank of the project area, Sacramento River currents and wind-driven waves were scouring the fragile soils of the island. The erosion was so severe that the 8 foot vertical bank made of a sandy silt material had receded over 50 feet in less than 10 years and, if left unchecked, would eventually impact the restored area.

*"This project, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game, was designed to test the utility and effectiveness of alternatives to the conventional use of rock rip-rap," said **Tom Hall**, a Staff Environmental Scientist who worked on the project.*

***Jim Eckman**, an engineer from the Delta Levees Program, and Tom, in collaboration with DFG, determined that driftwood logs and other debris being*

driven into the toe of the bluff were the primary cause of the severe erosion. Their goal was to build an experimental structure tough enough to resist the beating but that would be hospitable to new vegetation and wildlife.

The erosion control structures were created with vertical hexagonal tubes of high-density polyethylene mesh with internal support structures and lined with filter fabric. Eight tubes were factory welded into modules two feet wide by four feet deep in a stair-step arrangement from two to six feet tall. The modules were embedded along 60 feet of the vertical earthen embankment and anchored with stainless steel cable and "duckbills" that were driven three to five feet into the face of the bluff.

A 16-person labor crew from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection worked in October of 2002 to clear the debris piles that had accumulated in the "scour pit" and to excavate and level the soil so the supports would sit evenly on the beach and be protected from undercutting.

California Bay-Delta Authority, and **Andy Rockriver** and **Mike Healey**, fishery experts from DFG.

The Delta Levees Program is under the Bay-Delta Office, formerly known as the Office of State Water Project Planning, and has many employees who have been involved in the Decker Island project, including **Dave Mraz**, **Bill Heyenbruch**, **Edward Schmit**, **Jim Eckman**, **Dave Showers** and **Tom Hall**. **Lenny Grimaldo** of the Division of Environmental Services North Levees Program has also been involved.

The future of Decker Island and Delta restoration is promising.

"Some of the research we do on Decker may help guide our restoration planning at Dutch Slough and other future restoration projects," said Curt.

When asked if this project will have a positive effect on future Delta restoration efforts, Engineer **Joel Dudas**, the project GIS specialist who provides mapping and analysis to monitor



Above: During Phase II, 270,000 yards of material was removed from Decker Island and used to rehabilitate other islands' levees.

Below: Jim Eckman and CDF crews place internal support structures to strengthen Decker Island.

erosion rates and plant survival on the islands, said,

"Absolutely. We have been able to learn through the ongoing effort from Phase I about what is successful and apply it to Phases II and III." ■

After installing filter fabric in the trench footing, the restoration crew installed, anchored, and backfilled the modules with native material and transplanted native grasses. Since Decker Island is subject to extreme tides and winter storms which inundate the work site, the crew had to work in the fall, when the environmental conditions were appropriate and their fire-fighting calls were reduced. "The site conditions made the use of power equipment impossible. It made sense to use the CDF crew and they did a terrific job. They worked hard, offered suggestions, and were adaptable to plan changes as they became necessary," said Jim.

Success

For the next five years, the Decker Island Levee Bank Erosion Reduction Project will be monitored to measure the success and effectiveness of this demonstration project. Since this method is a prototype for new systems of erosion control in the Delta, and it is a low-cost program to achieve a sound solution, there is great promise for similar projects.

After almost one year in service, the modules show evidence of the severity of the constant pounding from wave-driven logs, but survive intact and have proven to be great hosts to thriving native grasses, planted willows, and other vegetation. Erosion of the bluff behind the modules has been reduced significantly and is not a threat to the integrity of the restored habitat area.





FLOOD PROTECTION *Corridor Program*

by Margarita Macias

Photos by Paul Hames

Clover Creek Preserve in Redding and the San Diego River Parkway in Lakeside, San Diego County are showcase examples of how the Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) is both enhancing California's environment and providing increased flood protection. The Clover Creek Project provides peak flow detention of floodwaters and conserves 84 acres of oak woodland and vernal pool habitat in the midst of an urbanizing area. The San Diego Project converts an area previously mined for sand and gravel to floodplain for transitory storage during high flows, and restores riparian wildlife habitat in the floodplain along the shores of the San Diego River.

"Through FPCP, DWR is able to fund innovative projects that use the natural floodwater storage capability of floodplains to reduce peak flood water flows and simultaneously preserve California's farmland and wildlife resources," said **Earl Nelson**, Manager of the FPCP.

After Proposition 13, the "Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act" was passed in March of 2000, DWR's FPCP was established to oversee

administration of the grants. The FPCP provides funds to acquire property rights—easements and fee title—from willing sellers. Projects must provide for agricultural land preservation or wildlife habitat protection as well as demonstrate a significant reduction of peak flood flows, flood stage, flood risk or potential flood damage. Of the \$70 million in Proposition 13 bond funds for primarily nonstructural flood management projects that include wildlife habitat enhancement and/or agricultural land preservation, approximately \$60 million will be used for FPCP projects throughout the State. Nonstructural flood management projects means using the natural catchment (storage) functions that existed in floodplains before the levees were installed.

"Before grant recipients were selected, I physically toured all 45 project sites proposed by applicants," said Earl. "To be selected for funding, the program participants, who are local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, had to demonstrate how effectively they met the Program objectives for flood management and wildlife or agricultural resource conservation. In addition, projects received points for appropriately managing or improving cultural resources,



water quality, groundwater recharge, and water supply, and for demonstrating the ability to manage the grant."

In 2001, DWR through the FPCP awarded \$27 million for five projects. In 2003, DWR awarded \$29.14 million in grants to 14 projects in 12 counties statewide, which nearly exhausted the funds currently appropriated for the Program. None of the funds come from the State's General Fund.

*Photo on Page 14-15: DWR's Flood Protection and Corridor Program provides funding to restore habitat adjacent to floodplains, such as Dry Creek. Dry Creek Parkway is an example of riparian woodland providing habitat for a variety of birds and mammals along with shade and woody debris for Chinook salmon that spawn and rear in the Creek. **Right:** Bonnie identifies tracks and scat left by coyote, quail, pheasant, and deer on a wildlife trail at the Miner's Ravine project site. **Below:** (Left to Right) Flood Protection Corridor Program team members Jim Bailey (now retired from DWR), DWR Hydrologist Boone Lek, Brian Keating of Placer County, and Sunny Williams of the County of Sacramento Planning Department listen while Peter Buck of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (center) describes plans to remove invasive weeds on a site visit to Lower Dry Creek.*



The FPCP Team

To assist Earl Nelson as FPCP's Program Manager and assure the completion of the FPCP projects, DWR assigned **Annalena Bronson**, **Bonnie Ross** and **Dr. Michelle**

Stevens as Project Coordinators, and **Jim Coe** as Regulations Coordinator. Hydrologists **Mike Mirmazaheri** and **Boone Lek** of Flood Management also assisted as part of the proposal review team. From DWR's District offices, FPCP staff also includes Northern District's **Todd Hillaire**, who recently replaced **Kevin Pond**, **Paul Romero** of San Joaquin District, and **Salomon Miranda** and **Susan Woolam**, both of Southern District, who also assisted on the proposal review team and provide a regional presence to deal with project issues in their respective regions.

"I was hired in December of 2000 to set up and implement the Flood Protection Corridor Program," said Earl, Senior Environmental Scientist. "My initial activities included working on program goals and objectives, a mission and a vision statement, schedule of milestones, and regulations for awarding competitive grants. Jim Coe was a big help in completing the regulations."

> > > continued on next page



"I love my job. I feel like I am making a real contribution to the local communities and California by helping to reduce the dangers of devastating floods while preserving agricultural lands and restoring and enhancing the ecosystem, "

—**BONNIE ROSS, PROJECT MANAGER**

With 30 years of experience as an environmental planner and project manager, Earl has worked as Planning Director for Tuolumne County (1973-75), Environmental Review Program Director for Butte County (1977-81), Environmental Planner and Project Manager for Western Area Power Administration (1991-2000), and owner/manager of a private environmental consulting firm.

"The California-Oregon Transmission project at \$428 million is the largest public works construction project that I have worked on," said Earl. "It was a 500-kV high-voltage transmission line extending 310 miles from the Oregon border to Tracy. I was part of the environmental review process team that developed the scope of work for recruiting the contractor that prepared the Environmental Impact Statement and Report. I also worked with construction contractors to ensure they adhered to environmental impact mitigation requirements."

After Earl hired Environmental Scientist Bonnie Ross in 2001, they both managed the evaluation and selection of the initial round of direct expenditure projects totaling \$27 million.

"Since coming on board, I have helped with the development of the selection criteria, presented workshops, and done other outreach to publicize our program," said Bonnie.

Bonnie coordinates FPCP involvement in the Big Bend project, which is five miles upstream from the confluence of the San Joaquin and the Tuolumne rivers. The program helped to fund the acquisition of fee title on the Todd property and conservation easements on two adjacent properties that enabled the Tuolumne River Preservation Trust to restore floodplain and riparian habitats.

As a Project Coordinator of six projects, Bonnie will work closely with the sponsors and other interested parties through meetings and site visits. In addition to tracking budget spending, she will evaluate and comment on flood management and habitat restoration design plans.

"I love my job. I feel like I am making a real contribution to the local communities and California by helping to reduce the



Left: Ethno botanist Dr. Michelle Stevens discusses historic uses of native plants flourishing on the Miner's Ravine site with Supervisor Earl Nelson and Placer County Flood Control and Water District Engineer Brian Keating.

Below: In less than six months after weed removal, Natural Resources Specialist Sarah Ross and Natural Resource Supervisor Peter Buck with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency examine seed production and growth rate of red Sesbania, a noxious weed invading the Lower Dry Creek Parkway. The FPCP is funding SAFCA, which is removing 100 acres of Sesbania on the Lower Dry Creek project.



dangers of devastating floods while preserving ag lands and restoring and enhancing the ecosystem," said Bonnie.

Like Bonnie, Staff Environmental Scientist **Annalena Bronson** and Environmental Scientist **Dr. Michelle Stevens** also agree that working on the FPCP projects is very rewarding.

Annalena, who joined the FPCP in 2003, assisted in the selection process and is coordinating FPCP involvement in three of the projects. After joining the FPCP later in 2003, Michelle began overseeing funding agreement implementation for four projects, which include the Vierra Unit project located west of Modesto, La Barranta project near Red Bluff, Miner's Ravine project in Roseville, and the Napa River project in Napa.

"Two of my projects are sponsored by The Nature Conservancy—the Upper Pajaro River and the Santa Maria River Projects. These projects consist of strategic land acquisitions to protect flood corridors in areas that otherwise could be threatened by development," said Annalena. "All of my projects will preserve or enhance wildlife corridors between important wildlife areas."

On the Miner's Ravine project on Dry Creek just north of Douglas Boulevard, the Miner's Ravine Off-Channel Flood Detention Basin Facility will allow more meandering of the creek for fish and wildlife habitat. "It will also provide regional flood detention and restore and conserve wetland, riparian and oak woodland habitat," said Michelle. "This is one of the last two parcels of land in the rapidly developing Roseville area that are suitable for regional detention pond and habitat restoration."

Future Plans

With all of the 14 new projects just beginning, FPCP staff has a lot of work ahead of them. FPCP's goal is to complete all the projects by 2006.

By implementing the 14 projects from the 2003 grants, the anticipated result will be wildlife habitat improvement on 2,877 acres, conservation of 2,548 acres of wildlife habitat not currently protected, and conservation easements to keep 985 acres of agricultural land permanently in production. This

is in addition to the approximately 9,700 acres of farmland and 600 acres of wildlife habitat previously conserved using Flood Protection Corridor Program funding. ■

To learn more about the FPCP, you can visit their Web site at <http://www.dfm.water.ca.gov/fpcp/>



At the Miner's Ravine project, Flood Protection and Corridor Program staff reviewed restoration plans with Brian Keating (center) of the Placer County Flood Control and Water District. (Left to Right) Staff included Bonnie Ross, Project Manager Earl Nelson, Brian Keating, Annalena Bronson, and Miner's Ravine Project Coordinator Dr. Michelle Stevens.



DWR's Bonnie Ross along with Peter Buck and Mick Klasson of SAFCA observe a 3-foot long salmon migrating upstream on the Lower Dry Creek.



Dr. Michelle Stevens examining cattails and other wetland plants to be preserved on the Miner's Ravine site.



DWR Workers Battle FIRES, MUDSLIDES

by Pete Weisser

Facing huge Southern California wildfires last fall, DWR employees from throughout California took action to safeguard State Water Project facilities, water quality and DWR property.

This winter, DWR's flood experts played a role in partnership with other agencies, working to prevent and contain floods and mudslides in charred watersheds vulnerable to erosion.

"DWR staff helped combat massive Southern California fires and are providing flood prevention leadership and working in concert with public safety agencies to minimize mudflows and flood damage in fire-damaged areas," said **Sonny Fong**, DWR's Emergency Preparedness and Security Manager. "This is a highly professional emergency response effort."

In October 2003, wildfires swept across more than 700,000 acres in five Southern California counties—Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties—consuming homes and businesses and interrupting normal life for weeks.

Southern Field Division

For DWR and the SWP, Southern Field Division was a key fire battle area, especially at Devil Canyon and Mojave

Powerplants, where extensive burned vegetation, but no structural damage, was reported.

Many Operations and Maintenance employees from SFD responded to the wildfire challenge, according to

Sebastian Perez, SFD Chief, and **John Bunce**, Operations Superintendent of SFD's Operations Section. They assisted fire fighting crews in setting up fire fighting equipment, moved vehicles to safe locations and coordinated and assisted fire-fighting efforts to protect the DWR facilities, notably near Cedar Springs Dam maintenance yard.

They kept SWP delivery facilities in operation, assuring that critical water and power was available for fire fighting throughout the regions.

After the fire, primary power was interrupted due to burned power poles and power lines. Maintenance personnel filled the power gap by use of emergency generators. They also assured



Photos by Southern Field Division and Division of Engineering staff

Large Photo: From the top of Cedar Springs Dam, smoke filled the air west towards the Maintenance Yard and Mojave Powerplant.

Top: Fire burning brush behind Cedar Springs Dam Maintenance Yard and towards Cedar Springs Dam.

Bottom: View of a tree still smoldering in the burned-out public campground at the south end of Silverwood Lake.

“DWR staff helped combat massive Southern California fires and are providing flood prevention leadership and working in concert with public safety agencies to minimize mudflows and flood damage in fire-damaged areas,”

—SONNY FONG
DWR'S EMERGENCY PREPARED-
NESS AND SECURITY MANAGER

Ricky Willson, Alice Jones, Robert Wylie, Nicholas Keserich, Maria Zamora, Don Manglona, Tyson McRae, Don Medina, Robert Nazabal, Steven Nichols, Jack Rolan, Maurice Rubio, Jess Salazar, Alvin Adair, Gene Buell, Brian Colbrunn, Gary Fifield, Paul Golovkin, Vic Hernandez, Sherry Loya, Paul Peck, Ramona Sandahl and Frank York.

“Many of the employees who responded to these emergencies live in the threatened areas and had to also deal with evacuating and worrying about the status of their homes,” said Bunce. “We are glad to report that none of them lost their homes.”

Damage Inspected

In early November, a DWR inspection team toured the area and assessed fire damage at Operations and Maintenance's Southern Field Division. The team was composed of **Frank Glick**, **Mike Driller** and **John Squires** from Division of Engineering, along with **Elena Behnam** from O&M.

They reported that in the area inspected, from Devil Canyon Second Afterbay in the South to the Mojave Siphon and Check 66 Structure in the North, 90 percent of the vegetation was consumed. The flames left only charred ground and burned stumps.

“No significant fire damage occurred to the DWR facilities,” said Glick. “However, secondary facilities such as power lines and drip irrigation systems were damaged or destroyed.”

The inspectors noted that the fires came very close to the Mojave Siphon Powerplant. While Cedar Springs Dam at

ongoing powerplant operations by cleaning up ash and soot that could have damaged key electrical components.

Employees who responded to the fire emergency include **Carl Dueck**, **Emmanuel Samones**, **Stan Hansson**, **Patrick Scanlon**, **Jay Holdaway**, **Thomas Waltman**, **Steven Horrall**, **David Watson**, **John Irby**,



Above: Along the northern side of the Devil Canyon Second Afterbay, the slope was burned out. The above-ground pipes in the background are crossing the San Andreas Fault.

Right: Fire fighters spraying down the Mojave Powerplant switchyard.

Below: Fire burning near Check Site 66.



Silverwood Lake was unaffected, the inspectors reported that the Department of Parks and Recreation campground areas and facilities at the south end of Silverwood Lake were totally destroyed by the fire.

A primary purpose of the inspection was to document fire damage and to estimate the potential for future damage from rainwater runoff, erosion, debris flow and sedimentation.

“After wildland fires,” stated **Dallas Jones**, Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), “mudflows and landslides follow.”

[> > > continued on next page](#)



Inspection team looking at burned slope and ash in drainage ditch adjacent to the Devil Canyon Second Afterbay. Team included John Squires and Mike Driller from Engineering, Elena Behnam from Operations and Maintenance, and a re-seeding contractor. (Photo by Inspection Team Member Frank Glick)

DWR Flood Preparedness Plan

Under the direction of **Jay Punia**, Chief of the Flood Operations Branch, experts from DWR's Division of Flood Management, quickly developed a plan of action "in an effort to effectively and proactively prepare for potential flood-related disasters in Southern California." Heavy rainfall on sloped areas denuded of vegetation suddenly can trigger large-scale erosion, Punia warned, with short response times by emergency responders.

"Given the existing conditions and such short response times," said Punia, "event preplanning and early coordination are essential to protecting lives and infrastructure."

DFM Hydrology and Field Operations Office Chief Gary Hester said the Southern California rain-induced mudflows and debris flows are more like flash floods in their abruptness than the slower moving riverine floods familiar to Northern Californians.

The DWR action plan details how various DWR divisions (Flood Management, Planning and Local Assistance, and Safety of Dams) will assist and coordinate with other agencies to prepare for and respond to flood events and mud flows. The efforts include providing modified flood fight methods training, technical assistance, coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and possible deployment of pre-positioned DWR flood fight materials.

Rick Burnett, Herman Phillips, and Richard Willoughby of Flood Management conducted several special flood-training classes, which were geared to Southern California erosion and flood needs. The classes were held in December to train California Conservation Corps Members and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection personnel.

"Coordination is a key element of the plan, especially with OES, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, local and regional authorities, and other State and federal agencies," said Fong.

"Since our District happens to be located near the area, we have been the eyes, arms, and legs for the Division of Flood Management," said Chief of Southern District **Mark Stuart**. "It was a team effort by all of DWR. In addition to Central District's Chief Karl Winkler's assistance, Northern District's Engineer Kris Kingsley provided community outreach on floodplain management."

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has inspected several area dams, identified dams in or near the fire zones, and accompanied other DWR staff on flood coordination and preparedness meetings.

"O&M is monitoring the condition of burn areas around its facilities and supporting mitigation work being done by other agencies," said Punia. "Light rains in the area have already caused some vegetative growth to occur on these areas."

The U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Parks and Recreation are applying straw mulch for erosion control on denuded watershed slopes surrounding Silverwood Lake. However, Punia noted, many slopes are too steep for effective erosion control.

Only a limited area of the burned area above Silverwood Lake can be mulched. He said that DFM floodfight technical specialists assisted DPR in strategic sandbagging around the DPR sewage treatment plant above Silverwood Lake to protect it from flooding and possible mudflow damage.

"Flood coordination meetings were arranged and conducted by Stuart, Punia, Hester, and Burnett in mid-December with four impacted county OES offices, respective flood control districts, DWR, FEMA, State OES, CCC, CDF, National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others," said Fong. "All meetings were well-attended and greatly enhanced coordination, communication and planning for the protection of lives and infrastructure." ■

Vegetation burned just downstream of Devil Canyon Afterbay. Pipeline surge stacks also shown.



Giving is the Key

With 11,000 pounds of food and \$4,068 raised by DWR employees, the "Giving is the Key in 2003" Food Drive ended in December. From November 17 to December 19, employees held nacho sales, bake sales, silent auctions, and other events in support of the Food Drive. In addition to the Food Drive, employees also made donations to local non-profit organizations.

"The highest food donor was the Division of Engineering, who donated 2,650 pounds, and the highest cash donor was the Division of Management Services, who donated \$575.75," said **Muhammad Iqbal**, DWR's Food Drive Chair who works as an Associate Control Engineer for the Division of Operations and Maintenance's Control Systems Branch. "The Office of Water Use Efficiency was the 2003 winner for the highest per capita donation."

To help with the annual Food Drive, the Division of Management Services raised more than \$300 at its nacho sale in December. From their Silent Auction, the Office of Water Education donated \$536 to the Food Drive and \$429 to the Meadowview Community Enhancement Center, a non-profit organization that services surrounding school districts by providing academic tutorial services for grades K-12.

The Division of Engineering's Civil Engineering Branch's Dams and Canals Section doubled its Food Drive donations from last year. The staff of 28 collected more than 2,500 pounds of canned food.

Along with DWR's Food Drive donations, DWR employees throughout California made other charitable donations. Instead of having a gift exchange at its holiday party, the Division of Planning and Local Assistance's Resources Restoration and Project Support Branch donated \$500 to the Sacramento Bee's Book of Dreams Fund in support of the Sacramento Metropolitan Area Reading Tutoring (SMART) kids reading program. Through SMART, tutors

Fiscal Services staff with gifts for Sacramento Children's Receiving Home. Left to Right (Front Row) Cheryl Davis, Deanna Wilkes, Rebecca Martello and Shelly Singh. (Back Row) Gary Kirk, Jamie So, Division Chief of Fiscal Services Perla Netto-Brown, Susan Bradley and Shirley Alvarez. (Not in photo: Vanessa Southward)



from local colleges work at four different school districts in the Sacramento and Davis areas.

For Christmas, San Joaquin District participated in the "Adopt an Angel" program sponsored by the Holy Cross Center for Women. District staff "adopted" 11 children from five families. These children received warm clothing and a toy to surprise them on Christmas morning. The Holy Cross Center has provided a safe haven for poor and homeless women and their children in downtown Fresno since 1984.

As part of San Joaquin District's Fifth Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, District staff also collected seven hams, four turkeys, 170 pounds of potatoes, 20 pounds of rice, 56 cans of vegetables, and many other food items. The donations were taken to The Poverello House, a private, nonprofit, nondenominational organization that serves the hungry or homeless in Fresno. ■



Above: DWR's Food Drive Coordinator Muhammad Iqbal sorts food for delivery to the California Emergency Food Link.

Left: Division of Engineering's Dams and Canals Section staff with food drive donations include from Left to Right: (Front Row) Vinh Giang, Anne Horton, Trinh Luu, Jasmine Doan, Raul Meza, Phil Lecocq. (Second Row) Jim Lopes, Jeanne Schallberger, Alan Bishop, Frank Dubar, Tim Wehling, John Yarbrough, Don Walker, Bill Forsythe. (Back Row) Dave Wheeldon, Mike Driller, Erin Nelson.





During Oroville's Salmon Festival, visitors watch for Salmon run.

Left: (Left to Right) At the Natomas Salmon Festival, Bonnie Ross reviews the lab tray sample taken from one of the ponds with fellow volunteers Don Guy From Planning and Local Assistance's Environmental Assessment Unit, his wife Cathy, and daughter Sarah. Along with four other DWR Environmentalists, they helped transform children into aquatic detectives. (Photo by Don Strickland)

SALMON *Festivals*

DWR Environmental Scientists Staff 'Pond Quest' at American River Salmon Festival

by Don Strickland

Experts from DWR's Divisions of Environmental Services, Flood Management, and Planning and Local Assistance focused on youngsters at the October 11-12 American River Salmon Festival, hosting "Pond Quest" at the annual Nimbus Fish Hatchery/Lake Natoma event.

"We transform kids into aquatic detectives," said DFM Environmental Scientist **Bonnie Ross**. "They turn over rocks and use nets to catch invertebrates that live in ponds near the hatchery as they learn about the salmon food chain and the quality of the water itself."

Other Environmental Services staff working this year's festival included **Jennifer Hogan**, **Dale Hoffman-Floerke**, **Nicole Darby**, and **Donald Guy**. From the Division of Planning and Local Assistance, **Joe Young** also assisted.

DWR set up a display booth between the Department of Fish and Game's two discharge holding ponds. The ponds were built by the Department of Fish and Game to collect and filter the water flushing through the rearing tanks before the water is put back into the river. The high nutrient content of the ponds and

Photos by Paul Hames

their design make the ponds an ideal location to show the public how an ecosystem works along with the variety of species that inhabit the microhabitats that exist within the ponds.

"One of the invertebrates, a black fly larva, thrives in the nutrient rich environment of the ponds. If the conditions are just right black fly larvae can multiply to the point where they deplete the floating nutrients in their environment," said Guy, as he showed his 12-year-old daughter, Sarah, a lab tray holding samples just taken from one of the ponds. Sarah said she enjoyed volunteering for the event to earn her community service credits for Harriett Eddy Middle School in Elk Grove.

Bonnie pointed out that DWR has a mission to protect resources and appearing at events like the Salmon Festival helps raise public consciousness.

"I wish more DWR people would volunteer for these kinds of outreach programs," said Bonnie. "The Department is required by State and federal law to disclose any environmental impacts that may result from DWR projects. We need the public to understand that DWR's mission is to protect environmental resources as well as to provide flood protection and clean water to the people of California."

Oroville's Salmon Festival

by Annie Parker

DWR staff provided activities for children and adults at the Ninth Annual Salmon Festival at the Feather River Fish Hatchery in Oroville on September 27th.

With about 6,000 people at the event, the activities included free shuttle rides from the "Fall Fest" at St. Thomas School through Downtown for a stop at the largest Salmon Festival craft fair with a "P T Cruiser" Car Club Show that is expected to expand next year. The Maidu "Big Time" featured at the Feather River Nature Center entertained crowds of visitors with traditional Maidu Dancing, traditional foods, crafts and games through the day and evening.

At the fish hatchery, DWR's Oroville Field Division staffed a booth with employees from the Feather River Fisheries Group.

On display was a large tank with a variety of live fish that are found locally, including the Coho salmon, a recent addition to Lake Oroville.

Free tours of the fish hatchery were offered by OFD tour guides.

"Of course the Feather River Fish Hatchery is always the 'Headliner' of the event with the state Department of Fish and Game spawning fish, probably the only hatchery anywhere to do so on a Saturday. The more than 400 visitors to the hatchery took advantage of the Interpretive Tours," said **John Ford**, a Tour Guide at Oroville Field Division.

Anglers could also try their luck fishing for a five-pound bass with the fish simulator provided by OWE. Bass fishing is extremely popular at Lake Oroville.

"I love the enthusiasm on the kids' faces when they catch the fish on the simulator," said **Surinder Tumber**, a Senior Legal Typist for DWR's Legal Office.

OWE also staffed a booth at the event. Children were invited to color fish and paste the fish fins on the proper area of the fish. There were also free bookmarks for kids to draw on and each bookmark contained a fact about fish.



From hands-on activities to tours of the Feather River Fish Hatchery, Oroville's Salmon Festival gave all visitors something to enjoy.

FERC Preview 2004

2004 Will Be A Critical Year For Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program

As 2004 begins, DWR enters a crucial phase in its bid to obtain a new federal license to operate key elements of the State Water Project's Oroville Facilities.

During a fast-paced 2004, DWR plans to conclude a variety of important studies, draft a settlement agreement and prepare a final application for license renewal all reflecting input from interested stakeholders.

To renew an existing 50-year license to operate Oroville Dam and associated facilities, DWR's application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is due by January 31, 2005. DWR hopes to obtain a new license from FERC when the current one expires in 2007.

"This final full year of license renewal preparation will require that DWR and interested stakeholders negotiate intelligently and productively for the public benefit," said **Raphael (Ralph) Torres**, Executive Manager for the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program. "There's no time to spare, so it could feel like the stretch run of a horserace."

Oroville Facilities include Oroville Dam, key storage reservoir for the SWP, and associated hydroelectric facilities—Edward Hyatt Powerplant, Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant and Thermalito Diversion Dam Powerplant—as well as the Feather River Fish Hatchery, Thermalito Diversion Dam, Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay, Oroville Wildlife Area, and recreational lands and facilities.

In 1957, when the federal government issued an initial 50-year license for the facilities, power issues were the basics of licensure for the 3.5 million acre-foot capacity dam.

In the intervening years, environmental values gained popular support and tougher federal and State legal protections were enacted. Now, in the 21st Century, FERC gives equal consideration to environmental and developmental factors in weighing requests for license renewal.

"This final full year of license renewal preparation will require that DWR and interested stakeholders negotiate intelligently and productively for the public benefit,"

—RALPH TORRES, EXECUTIVE MANAGER FOR THE OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING PROGRAM

Since 1997, DWR has worked diligently on a collaborative process toward renewal, seeking consensus with interested stakeholders on project operating conditions. This collegial effort involves conducting multiple studies, providing analyses of project operations, sharing views and information, and meeting with many stakeholders on such issues as Lake Oroville recreation and environmental issues, as frequently noted by Principal Engineer **Rick Ramirez**, DWR's Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program Manager.

Under study are the Oroville Facilities' operational impacts on instream flows, recreation activities, water temperatures, tribal lands and cultural resources, fish hatchery operations, and aesthetic values.

Among those having input are representatives of Native American tribes, local governments, water and land

The initial 50-year license to operate the Oroville Facilities will expire in 2007.



recreationists, anglers, environmental groups, State and federal resource agencies, and other interested groups and individuals. "It's helpful in these discussions that DWR has consistently worked with the public, environmental groups, and State and federal fish and wildlife agencies," said Rick.

A vital achievement during 2003 was DWR's completion of the last elements of the 1994 Lake Oroville Recreation Plan, a recreational blueprint of great interest to sports, economic and environmental enthusiasts in the Oroville region. An April 15, 2003 DWR letter informed FERC of this step, listing the many recreational improvement completed.

Among sample features in this plan are: creating a concrete boat launch ramp at North Thermalito Forebay, creating launch ramp extensions at the Spillway and Lime Saddle Marina, preparing an interim Fishery Management Plan with a Salmonid Stocking Program, hiring of a fulltime Lake Oroville Fisheries Biologist, expanding the Feather River Fish Hatchery, installing 10 floating campsites, year-round opening of Loafer Creek Campground and developing a 41-mile loop mountain bike trail, plus construction of 50 campsites and three restroom buildings at Lime Saddle Campground.

During 2004, the ultimate goal of DWR's collaborative effort is to develop a settlement agreement to jointly propose license terms and conditions that will support DWR's license application, conditions that FERC will find acceptable in terms of public stewardship of a public power license.

Oroville is vital to operations of the SWP, a multipurpose water and power system approved by the Legislature and the voters of California. Oroville Dam operations are conducted to provide not only SWP water deliveries, but also to meet Delta water flow and water quality standards, environmental and fish needs and to provide flood protection for Oroville and downstream communities, including Yuba City, Marysville and the Sacramento metropolitan area.

Through negotiations, the DWR relicensing team hopes to achieve relicensing of the Oroville Facilities at reasonable cost and with reasonable operating conditions.

Tom Glover, Deputy Director in charge of the SWP, ranks relicensing of DWR's Oroville Facilities "at the top of the priority list for the State Water Project and DWR." ■

A vital achievement during 2003 was DWR's completion of the elements of the 1994 Lake Oroville Recreation Plan



The extensive reconstruction of the Oroville Spillway Launching Facilities was completed in May of 2002. (Photo by John Chacon)



At Lime Saddle Campground, located at the northwestern end of Lake Oroville, three restroom buildings were constructed. (Photo by Steve Payer)



With Lime Saddle campground's completion in 2001, the 50-site complex now includes 32 individual tent sites, a group campsite for six tents, and 12 recreational vehicle spaces with full hookups, restrooms, and paved roads. (Photo by Steve Payer)

DWR Supervises CCC Flood Prevention Work

Division of Flood Management Sacramento Maintenance Yard Superintendent **Al Romero** and Assistant Superintendent **Russ Eckman** oversaw flood prevention work by a California Conservation Corps work crew at the Natomas-East Main Drain on December 9.

DOFM Utility Crafts Worker **Iris Flores** fed tree branches and brush cut by the CCC crew into a wood chipper as five Sacramento media outlets recorded the activities on videotape and still cameras and conducted interviews.

DWR contracts with the CCC to hand-clear floodway channels in urban areas and those considered too environmentally sensitive to allow use of heavy machinery.

Previously in 2003, DWR personnel supervised similar CCC operations at Arcade Creek, East main, Cache Creek, Putah Creek, Ridge Cut, and the Yolo Bypass.

"The CCC crews clear out brush and selective trees in addition to pruning branches up to six feet off the ground," said Romero. "That allows floodwaters to flow through high water areas unobstructed, particularly under bridges." ■



CCC Crew trim trees at Natomas-East Main Drain.



Iris Flores, a Utility Crafts Worker, puts tree branches into wood chipper.

Social Security Base up \$900 in 2004

by Jim Libonati

The Social Security Administration announced that the wage base for determining the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax will increase to \$87,900 in 2004 from \$87,000 in 2003.

The increase will result in about 9.2 million workers paying higher taxes as a result of the increase in 2004.

The total Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax rate will remain at least 7.65%, with 6.20% for Social Security and 1.45% for Medicare.

The wage base increased more sharply from 2002 to 2003, jumping \$2,100 from \$84,900 in 2002.

DWR History Quiz

1. The Department of Water Resources opened its doors with a staff of about 400 in what year?
(a) 1943 (b) 1976 (c) 1898 (d) 1956
2. The predecessor agency to the Division of Dam Safety of DWR, was first created as a result of what event?
(a) 1907 earthquake in San Francisco
(b) Cracks in Folsom Dam in 1997 (c) 1928 failure of St. Francis Dam
(d) 1955 floods in Yuba City (e) 1963 failure of Baldwin Hills Dam
3. The man who envisioned the basic concept of a successful flood control system for the Sacramento River watershed was
(a) Will S. Green, Editor of the Colusa Sun
(b) Robert Kelley, a college professor
(c) General Barton S. Alexander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(d) Samuel Jones, a former DWR employee
4. What percentage of the State Water Project water goes to agriculture?
(a) 30 percent (b) 70 percent (c) 50 percent (d) 60 percent
5. Which of the following is not a SWP Contractor
(a) Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
(b) Tulelake Irrigation District
(c) Modesto Irrigation District
(d) Imperial Irrigation District
(e) all of the above
6. The last completed project of the SWP was
(a) Coastal Branch Extension
(b) Sites Reservoir
(c) East Branch Extension, Phase I
(d) East Branch Extension, Phase II
7. What is the highest pump lift on the SWP?
(a) 1,926 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains
(b) 5,785 at Lake Davis
(c) 7,856 at Lake Tahoe
8. California's voters first approved a State water project in what year?
(a) 1933 (b) 1956 (c) 1947 (d) 1960

Answers: (1. d), (2. c), (3. a), (4. a), (5. e), (6. c), (7. a), (8. a)

Another Successful C.A.S.T Event at Millerton Lake

DWR's San Joaquin District staff turned out for the third consecutive year on Saturday, October 4 to support the "Catch a Special Thrill for Kids" (C.A.S.T.) event at Millerton Lake near Fresno.

The day of boating and angling gave the youngsters a chance to experience "catch and release" fishing and interactive learning activities on everything from flora and fauna to outdoor water safety.

Developed for disabled and disadvantaged children, C.A.S.T. is hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation's South-Central Area Office and the national "C.A.S.T. for Kids" Foundation.

"We had a terrific showing," said San Joaquin District Chief

Paula Landis. "I'd say the name of the event, 'Catch a Special Thrill,' captures what these kids experienced."

Of the 37 youngsters attending the event this year, nine participants came from the Make-A-Wish Foundation of South San Joaquin Valley, nine came from Children's Hospital Central California, 11 came from the Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services, three came from the San Joaquin River Intertribal Heritage Educational Corporation, and five came from a waiting list developed by the event coordination committee.

The day of boating and angling gave the youngsters a chance to experience "catch and release" fishing and interactive learning activities on everything from flora and fauna to outdoor water safety. Each child also took home a rod and reel, tackle box, and commemorative T-shirt and cap.

An estimated 400 people took part in the C.A.S.T. event activities between Millerton Lake's Grange Grove and the Boat Launch area. About 20 onshore exhibits and activities were conducted throughout the event on a variety of topics.

More than 400 hamburgers and numerous hotdogs were cooked by the Los Banos Future Farmers of America and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority and supplemented with cookies, fresh fruit, beans, chips, and beverages.



(Left to Right) DWR employees and families participating at the event included Michael Miller, Alley Landis, Paula Landis, Karen Dulik, Cindy Moffett, Noemi Baca, Ann Marie Alexander, Mark Baca, and David Lara. Missing in photo are Ramona Fernandez and Ernie Taylor. (Photo provided by Paula Landis)



During the "Catch a Special Thrill for Kids" event, many children made water cycle bracelets at DWR's booth. (Photo provided by Ernie Taylor)

Sign-in records indicate that 20 C.A.S.T. alumni kids and their families returned from previous years to enjoy the on-shore activities.

"I was very pleased with the turnout for the third annual event," said Paula. "I talked to several bass boat captains after they returned to shore and they were as excited as the kids. It was obvious that they took great pleasure in sharing their passion for fishing with enthusiastic kids, who were experiencing the thrill of fishing for the first time. Thanks to all of our great DWR volunteers who helped organize the event, plan activities, and staff our booths." ■

Riding Home to Milwaukee via Route 66

Dealing with extreme heat, periodic rain showers, screaming cross winds, and muddy construction detours, **George Qualley**, Chief of Project Power Management within the State Water Project Analysis Office recently joined hundreds of thousands of Harley-Davidson enthusiasts in “riding home” to factory headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a four-day celebration of Harley Davidson’s 100th Anniversary. Between August 15 and September 9, George covered 6,536 miles through 15 states, including over 2,500 miles on the fabled “Route 66” from Los Angeles to Chicago.

“My father, who passed away in 1986, would also have been 100 years old this year. During the 1920s, my dad’s only Harley ride was around the neighbor’s farmyard and was terminated by a haystack that jumped out in front of him! I felt this ride would be a great way to honor his memory, enjoy beautiful scenery, visit with friends and relatives along the way, and create some ‘biker stories’ to relate to my grandkids,” said George.

George purchased his Centennial edition “DYNA Wide Glide” model (with license plate “CENT HOG”) in November 2002. He rode first to the Santa Monica Pier (end point of old Route 66), and then to Las Vegas—where thousands of riders from all over the world united to commence the ride to Milwaukee along the “Southwest Tour.”

George, who has taken his family around the United States three times by car, had never before traveled alone on a motorcycle for more than 200 miles. Although he has borrowed Harleys a few times a year for the past decade, he had not owned a bike since selling his 305 Honda Scrambler almost 20 years ago. To help prepare for this epic ride, he took a motorcycle safety class in March.

George rode alone the first two days out of Las Vegas, covering about 350 miles per day. Leaving 66 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he joined up with six happy-go-lucky characters from Milwaukee—who had shipped their bikes out to Las Vegas so they wouldn’t miss out on the “ride home”—literally, for them. “From Albuquerque, we rode as the ‘not-so-magnificent seven’—creating some interesting ‘biker stories’ along the way.”

The four days of events at Milwaukee included factory tours, numerous H-D dealer events, and big-name bands at the State fairgrounds and the “Summerfest” venues. The grand finale was a concert in Veterans Park on August 31, with about 250,000 people standing shoulder to shoulder (reminiscent of Woodstock), with their bikes parked all over downtown Milwaukee.



As George Qualley paused to admire Beartooth in Wyoming, a passing bicyclist, who was making the “hard way” climb to Beartooth Pass’ summit, took his photo.

George thoroughly enjoyed his ride through so many great places, such as the Painted Desert in Arizona, the Wisconsin and Minnesota lake country, the Badlands in North Dakota, Beartooth Pass (10,947 feet) in Montana, Yellowstone, and the Tetons.

“There were times when the conditions and setting were so perfect that it reminded me of some of the cruising scenes in ‘Easy Rider,’” said George. “Experiences like riding in the cool morning air through mountainous areas on a winding two-lane highway reminded me of why I went on this trip—and can’t wait until the next ride.”

However, the best part of the trip was meeting people from all corners of the globe, and from all walks of life. No matter what occupation, age or nationality the riders were, we all enjoyed sharing our common interest in the Zen of riding,” said George. “Riders had shipped their bikes from places all around the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Europe, and South America. And they had ridden them from as far away as Mexico City and Fairbanks, Alaska!”

George, a veteran of 34 years with the State, is back at work in SWPAO. He is one of the lead managers within the Post-2004 Power Project team, which is building a new power portfolio (before major long-term contracts expire in December 2004), and concurrently developing DWR’s energy risk management policy and procedures. George’s “Power Loads & Resources SWAT Team” has developed projections of future SWP pump loads and generation, and is formulating portfolio options and procurement strategies consistent with the evolving energy risk guidelines. ■

DWR Ecologist Hopes for Restoration of Iraq's 'Garden of Eden' Marshes

by Don Strickland

DWR Restoration Ecologist Dr. Michelle Stevens pays close attention to continuing developments in Iraq...as do concerned people around the world...but she looks to an area that many Middle East watchers may not even know exists.

She visualizes the once great Mesopotamia Marshes and hopes they can be returned to the natural beauty that many

Saddam Hussein deliberately poisoned all the fish in the marshes and the water buffalo...we don't know what he used.

historians and religious scholars believe inspired the Garden of Eden described in the Bible and the Koran.

Until a decade ago, southern Iraq boasted one of the world's largest wetlands.

At nearly 7,800 square miles, it was a watery oasis bigger than the state of New Jersey. Now only about 3-6 percent remains and what's left is in big trouble.

"There's napalm, and biological and chemical elements," said Dr. Stevens. "Saddam Hussein deliberately poisoned all the fish in the marshes and the water buffalo...we don't know what he used. He wanted to drive out the indigenous Marsh Arabs. Besides that, there's a lot of industrial and municipal sewage going into the Tigris and Euphrates along with high levels of DDT that they used to control malaria. It's quite a toxic soup."

Funded by a quarter-million dollar grant from the U.S. State Department, Dr. Stevens managed original Iraqi marsh restoration planning for a project called "Eden Again." Now she dreams of the day that Iraq is stable enough to allow her to see firsthand what remains of the wetlands.

At DWR, Dr. Stevens manages restoration projects under the Flood Protection Corridor Program. Other job responsibilities include assisting in general restoration, mitigation and permitting responsibilities for the Division of Flood Management. She has written two books on wetlands restoration and worked as a wetlands ecologist for the federal



Dr. Stevens with her dog "Star" was recently featured in a U.C. Davis magazine for her assignment on "Eden Again." (Photo by U.C. Davis Photographer Debbie Aldridge)

Environmental Protection Agency in Idaho; Washington Department of Ecology; U.C. Davis; and for Jones & Stokes. She has experience restoring wetlands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and believes lessons learned there can be of great value in the Middle East.

"California lost 90 percent of its wetlands and riparian area, yet we've been very successful in restoring the Pacific Flyway. We've had recovery of most of our waterfowl and geese

"The three Mesopotamian Marshes, the al Hammar, Central, and al Haweizeh marsh, once covered an area of 7,800 square miles. The al Haweizeh marsh on the Iran-Iraq border has the best remaining marshes, which includes as many of the 22 species of globally endangered species still existent. It's heavily mined and you can't go out there without getting blown up. I'd like to see that area become a peace park. Peace for the people and peace for the land. That's my goal,"

—DR. MICHELLE STEVENS, DWR RESTORATION ECOLOGIST

populations," said Dr. Stevens. "In the Mesopotamian Marshes, over 1 to 10 million birds wintered each year and an entire flyway was affected. There are only one to 3-6 percent of those marshes left. Our success in wetland habitat restoration in California gives me hope for the future."

The massive shrinkage that ravaged the Mesopotamia Marsh was caused by upstream dams in Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Turkey and by drainage canals dug by the Saddam Hussein regime. What was once lush marsh vegetation is now salt pan as much as two feet deep. When and if restoration gets underway, it's very important that Iraq's marshes have flow-through water. Without it, the salt buildup will continue.

*Newly rejuvenated Mesopotamian Marshes in Iraq
photographed by Dr. Azzam Alwash.*

"The three Mesopotamian marshes, the al Hammar, Central, and al Haweizeh marsh, once covered an area of 7,800 square miles. The al Haweizeh marsh on the Iran-Iraq border has the best remaining marshes, which includes as many of the 22 species of globally endangered species still existent. It's heavily mined and you can't go out there without getting blown up. I'd like to see that area become a peace park. Peace for the people and peace for the land. That's my goal," said Dr. Stevens.

In Mesopotamia, the marsh dwellers have begun letting water back into the marshes. Stevens knows that while Iraq's political climate may not be safe right now, she hopes conditions will improve enough so that she can visit the wetlands in the future. A sheik and his family have offered to take her out into the marshes in their boat when she comes to visit. ■



35 Years Later—'Aqueduct Empire' and Book's Author Provide Vivid Insights on Water Issues

by Pete Weisser

In 1958, when Erwin Cooper joined DWR as an Information Officer, he knew "absolutely nothing about water beyond the kitchen faucet."

A decade later, he was the proud author of "Aqueduct Empire," a dramatic and authoritative account of water development in California, with special coverage of the creation of California's State Water Project

Thirty-five years after publication, 'Aqueduct Empire' remains readable, vibrant and informative. Never printed in great numbers nor widely distributed, it remains little-known, almost a cult book, except to an appreciative readership of "water buffaloes."

On a short shelf of prestigious water books with special historical value, some readers rank it with Remi Nadeau's "The Water Seekers," a 1950 book describing Southern California's quest for imported water supplies, "Battling The Inland Sea," Robert Kelley's regional history of Central Valley flooding and fights to tame it, and the raft-sized "California Water Atlas," launched in Governor Jerry Brown's Office of Planning and Research in the mid-1970s. Norris Hundley cites it as a source in his highly regarded water history, "The Great Thirst."

"Aqueduct Empire," a 439-page tome, traces water history from Spanish mission days, through the Gold Rush and pioneer eras, creation of regional water systems to serve Southern California and San Francisco, and ultimately the Central Valley Project and the early phases of SWP construction, portrayed in heroic terms. Cooper's robust copy sings as he portrays a thirsty state struggling to find solutions to its perpetual water challenges—too much flooding in the North, too little water in the arid South.

Creating the SWP

The chapter entitled "Thinking Big for a Big State" provides a vivid account of the post-World War II crusade to plan and build an ambitious water system to enable California to fully mature, to realize its farming, economic and business potential. That water system was the SWP, known initially as the "Feather River Project."



Erwin Cooper, author of the 'Aqueduct Empire,' worked for DWR's Information Office in 1958.

When hired in 1958 to be DWR's Southern California Information Officer, Cooper knew big water plans were in the works.

"The buzz was that, if the State's voters approved," recalls Cooper, "DWR might soon begin building the Feather River Project." In 1960, the voters approved a \$1.75 billion bond issue and construction soon began in earnest on the project, renamed the California State Water Project. (Preliminary work on the SWP, jump-started by an appropriation from the Legislature after the disastrous 1955 floods, began in the Oroville area in 1957.)

Cooper swiftly found himself totally immersed in learning about and describing the great water project as it took shape. He educated himself on water issues, tapping DWR sources and experts, borrowing water literature from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Los Angeles Public Library.

"Swamped with information, I had to classify the widely disparate topics to make sense of them all," recalls Cooper. "It was fascinating."

Absorbing water facts and history, Cooper wrote essays on rainfall, groundwater, water supply and the history of regional water development, as well as keeping current on SWP plans and construction.

"Californians are the fortunate beneficiaries of a vast 'plumbing freeway system,' the tandem Central Valley Project and State Water Project aqueducts," Cooper notes. "Without it, the California we know today could not exist."

Commendatory letters from Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, Director William Warne and other luminaries document that Cooper as a DWR PIO, in the phrase of one award, "performed an exceptional job of keeping the Southern California news media well informed of the work of the Department and its effect on Southern California."

Sense of History

But construction of the SWP deeply appealed to Cooper's keen sense of history beyond mere day-to-day reportage.

The son of Congregational Church missionaries who preached in the Near East, Cooper in 1941 worked as a cabin boy on ships serving the ports of Manila and Hong Kong. In January 1942, while helping evacuate Pearl Harbor attack survivors, he'd seen the blackened hulks of the US Pacific Fleet, sunk at their moorings on Battleship Row.

During WWII in Europe, Cooper served as an Army sergeant, first in the Field Artillery and then Military Intelligence. His fluency in German was an asset in his military intelligence work. From 1945-1947, he translated documents at the Nuremberg trials that resulted in the hanging of many top Nazi leaders of the Hitler regime. After leaving military service, Cooper completed college studies at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1948 with a Journalism degree.

His first years as a State PIO were spent with the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Then came his move to DWR.

A Water Book Takes Form

"Three years into my work (at DWR), I realized that, intended or not, a book was shaping up," recounts Cooper. He began working at home nights and weekends on a book about California water development. "The pieces slowly came together as a book," he says. "It was purely my own work, on my own time."

"The entire manuscript was fun to write, when fun is defined as responding enthusiastically to a fascinating topic," states Cooper.

"The hardest part was proofing the galleys, and finally the endless drudgery of doing the index, item by item, page by page."

Marketing the book was not easy. After several rejections, Cooper found a Glendale Publisher, Arthur Clark Company.

"My manuscript fell neatly into the company's 'Western Land and Water' Series," says Cooper. Just 2,000 copies were printed. "The book sold for \$12. My royalty was 10 percent."

By the time the book was printed in 1968, Cooper was no longer a DWR employee. He had transferred in 1966 to the Department of Motor Vehicles in Sacramento. He spent the last 18 years of his State career as a top DMV PIO, retiring in 1987. At DMV he was responsible for what he calls "my all-time best seller—The California Driver's Handbook."

Still a Water Scribe

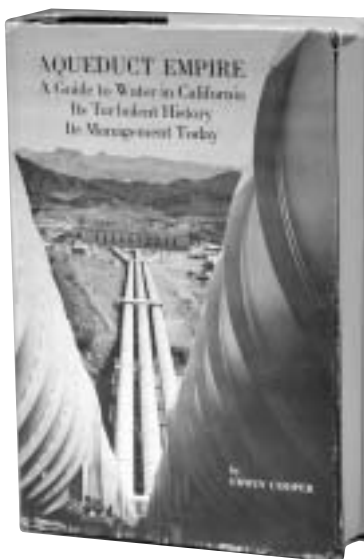
Today, a vigorous 83, Cooper is still a very active writer. He has authored works of fiction, including an unpublished novel about California's future. But the ever-changing topic of water remains his favorite subject.

"A decade ago, I started writing 'Understanding California Water,'" picking up where "Aqueduct Empire" left off," says Cooper. "This 350-page volume has been a continuing 'work in progress' since the California water landscape never stands still."

His appreciation for California's major water achievements is undiminished. "Californians are the fortunate beneficiaries of a vast 'plumbing freeway system,' the tandem Central Valley Project and State Water Project aqueducts," Cooper notes. "Without it, the California we know today could not exist."

Cooper lives in Chico, with his second wife, Vera, a pianist. They attend monthly meetings of the Chico Piano Players Workshop and are season ticket holders of Chico's symphony orchestra—the North State Symphony.

"Having given up mountain climbing and skiing two decades ago," reports Cooper, "I stay healthy mowing the lawn and growing flowers and vegetables." ■



DWR's 2003 Annual Awards

Each year, the Director presents awards to recognize Departmental individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department and to State Government in general. DWR congratulates the following award recipients.

Director's Award



SUPERIOR
Jeanine Jones
Executive

Management Excellence Award



SUPERIOR
Viju Patel
CERS



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Bert Pierroz
Executive



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Robert Niblack
DPLA/Central District

Outstanding Technical Accomplishment Award



SUPERIOR
Joseph Aguiar
Technology Services



SUPERIOR
Charles Azeltine
Operations and Maintenance

Outstanding Technical Accomplishment Award



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Sharmane Daniels
Fiscal Services



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Margarita Macias
Office of Water Education



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Clarice Moody
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Ken Wolf
Technology Services

Outstanding Office Services Accomplishment Award



SUPERIOR
Martha "Patty" Blake
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Evelyn Rucker
DMS/Executive Services

Outstanding Professional Accomplishment Award



SUPERIOR
Lorry Divine
DPLA/Northern District



SUPERIOR
Paul Mendoza
SWPAO



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Cindy Beach
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Gordon Enas
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Khalil Jafarnejad
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
M.A. Rashid
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Kuo "Jimmy" Yang
Engineering



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Maria Gomez
DMS/Contract Services Office



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Tracie Billington
DPLA



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Tom Luttermann
DPLA



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Ralph Svetich
DPLA

Outstanding Professional Accomplishment Award



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Darby Vickery
DPLA



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Chuck Keene
DPLA/Southern District



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Ben Loo
DPLA/Southern District



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Robert Pierotti
DPLA/Southern District



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Jose Faria
DPLA/San Joaquin District



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Patricia Colson
Fiscal Services



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Richard Draeger
Safety of Dams



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Phu L. Huynh
Safety of Dams



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Shawn O. Jones
Safety of Dams



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Fawzi Karajeh
Water Use Efficiency



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
Debbie Lewis-Barbour
Technology Services



SUSTAINED SUPERIOR
John Pacheco
CERS

Meritorious Service Awards and Unit Citations

Congratulations to the following DWR employees for all their hard work. The following outstanding DWR employees received awards for their dedication, talent, professionalism, enthusiasm, and pride in their work.

Meritorious Service Awards recognize exemplary job performance or outstanding contributions to Department programs.

Unit Citations are presented to a section, unit, or group (including task forces), who solve a particularly difficult problem.

Meritorious Service Awards



Patricia Chavez, Office Assistant (Typing) of Office of Water Use Efficiency, for her outstanding performance in carrying out support services for the Data Services and Program Development Branch and helping the Office Chief.



Brian Niski, Research Analyst II of Division of Planning and Local Assistance, for his outstanding contribution to the successful and timely completion of a contract between the Department of Water Resources, California Bay-Delta Authority, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the California Urban Water Conservation Board.



John Clements, Water Resources Engineering Associate (Supervisor) of Division of Planning and Local Assistance's Northern District, for his work effort to provide extraordinary water master service to the Scott and Shasta River watershed during 2002.



Joe Scott, Water Resources Technician II of Division of Planning and Local Assistance's Northern District, for his work effort to provide extraordinary water master service to the Scott and Shasta River watershed's decreed water users in Siskiyou County during the 2001 and 2002 water master seasons.



Guyla McCurry, Office Assistant (Typing) of Office of Water Use Efficiency, for her dedicated efforts and unselfish cooperation providing outstanding support to the Technical Assistance and Outreach Branch.



Greg Smith, Staff Environmental Scientist of the Division of Planning and Local Assistance, for his contribution to bring about an efficient process to review urban water management plans that serves as a model for review of other water management plans in the Department.

Unit Citation

Urban Streams Restoration Program

In recognition of the team's dedicated efforts, unselfish cooperation, and personal sacrifices during this technically challenging and environmentally sensitive construction project.



*(Left to Right): DPLA Chief Mark Cowin, Sara Denzler, Susan Oldland, Kurt Malchow, Bea Elder, Deputy Director Jonas Minton.
Not Shown: Rose Luna, Frasier Sime*

Training Coordinator Workshop

On August 13 and 14, 2003, the Training Office held the annual Summer/Fall Training Coordinator Workshop. This workshop is scheduled in August every year so that the Training Coordinators will have the most current information and policies when they begin the year's Appraisal and Development program (A&D). Thirty-eight of the Department's Training Coordinators attended the two-day workshop to be advised of the many changes and updates to the Department's Administrative Manual (DAM), as well as the many revisions to the forms used for training. The workshop also addressed the many questions surrounding the annual A&D program.

The Training Office depends upon the knowledge, experience and hard work of the Training Coordinators who attended the workshop, as well as the rest of the more than 70 Department Training Coordinators, to keep DWR's training programs and A&D program working smoothly.



*(Left to Right) Front Row: Rose Dulay, Cathy Pulcifer, Stephanie Servis, Adriana Ledesma, Mary Bennyhoff, Carol Becker, Ruthie Velasquez, Michelle Rivera, Deanna Wilkes, Noemi Baca, Laura Nelson, Margarita Luna, Wendy Pope, Nannette Chester, Tracey Lindberg.
Middle Row: Jane Schafer Kramer, Manerva Cole, Brenda Hawthorne, Jennifer Davis, Lynda Parrish, Cheryl Davis, Rebecca Martello, Gwen Eales, Cathy Marks, Dana Billy, Tracy Redifer, Debbie Benson.
Back Row: Laura Christie, Cait Plantaric, Surinder Tumber, Chris Calhoun, Kerri Price, Willow Tubbs, Elizabeth Wilson, Sue Johnson, Janet Hayhurst, Christine Page, Rebecca Boyer.*

DWR's 2003 Apprentice Graduates

Since 1972, approximately 350 Apprentices have graduated from DWR's Operations and Maintenance Apprentice Program.

During the three years of training as Utility Craftsworker and four years of training as Mechanic or Operator, the Apprentice must complete on-the-job training, classroom training, and home study. Apprentices also take a final exam every six-months. To learn more about DWR's Apprentice program, visit the Web site at www.appttrain.water.ca.gov.

Congratulations to the following 2003 Apprentice graduates.



Richard Alcala
San Joaquin Field Division
HEP* Operator



Carlos Cabral
San Joaquin field Division
HEP* Electrician



Vicki Gardner
Southern Field Division
HEP* Electrician



Aaron Lynam
San Joaquin Field Division
HEP* Operator



Tommy Matthews
San Joaquin Field Division
HEP* Electrician

*Hydroelectric Plant

Professional Engineer 2003 Graduates



Joe Burke
Engineering
Engineer



Brian Moniz
Planning & Local Assistance
Engineer



Kuo (Jimmy) Yang
Engineering
Mechanical Engineer

Registered Geologist 2003 Graduates



Dave Forwalter
Northern District
Engineering Geologist



Tanya Meeth
Central District
Engineering Geologist



Kelly Staton
Northern District
Engineering Geologist

Certified Hydrogeologist 2003 Graduate



Chris Bonds
Central District
Engineering Geologist

Retirements



Katherine Peterson

Electrical-Mechanical Testing Technician II **Katherine Peterson** retired from San Luis Field Division in December, ending a remarkable 26-year DWR career highlighted by some historic "firsts."

"I was the first woman

H.E.P. electrician at San Luis and the first woman Electrical-Mechanical Testing Technician in State service," said Kathy. "However, I took an odd route to get there."

Originally from Oregon, Kathy spent her high school years in Millbrae, California, before earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology at South Dakota State University. She met and married her artist husband, Stanley, in South Dakota and they

moved to Tracy in 1976, where Kathy took a job as an Office Assistant at Delta Field Division.

In 1980, she secured an electrical apprenticeship at the San Luis Field Division. By 1985, she began a two-year training and development assignment as an electrical-mechanical testing technician.

While a move from psychology to electrical-mechanical testing would be viewed as unusual by many, education is the key element. "It's important for people to get well-educated to succeed in a technical field," said Kathy.

Travel is now high on the agenda for the Petersons with extended visits to Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Denmark and Norway in their plans.

As for leaving her DWR co-workers, "I'll miss them," said Kathy. "We worked together in the trenches for a long time and they're really great people."

Retirements

Arlin Andersen

Delta Field Division
Water Resources
Technician II

James Bailey

Flood Management
Water Resources
Engineering Associate

Dana Barker

Technology Services
Information Systems
Technician Specialist I

James Blood

Oroville Field Division
Chief Field Division

Michael Bonner

Flood Management
Senior Engineer

Enrique Castillo

San Joaquin Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Operator

Frank Conti

Land & Right of Way
C.E.A.

Phillip Fortner

Southern Field Division
HEP* Electrician I

Monty Freeman

San Joaquin Field Division
Assistant Utility Craftworker

Dale Fryxell

Delta Field Division
HEP* Mechanic II

Richard Hedberg

Division of Engineering
Electrical Construction
Supervisor I

Mansour Hojabry

Planning & Local Assistance
Engineer

Ali Hosseinion

Engineering
Senior Mechanical Engineer

Dhananjay Joshi

Operations and Maintenance
Senior HEP** Utility Engineer

Robert Kennedy

Southern Field Division
Materials & Stores Spec.

Robert Porter

San Luis Field Division
HEP* Mechanic I

Katherine Triboli

Environmental Services
Water Resources
Engineering Associate

* Hydroelectric Plant

** Hydroelectric Power

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DWR'S PERSONNEL OFFICE

Twenty-five Years of Service



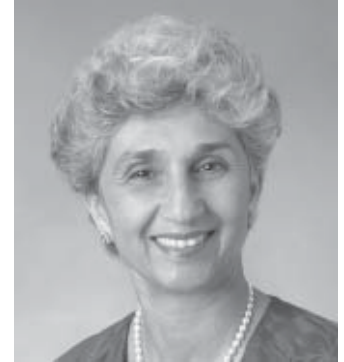
Jodie Benson
Fiscal Services
Administrative Officer
November 2003



Russell Cammell
Southern Field Division
HEP* Operator
November 2003



Jean Green
Fiscal Services
Associate Governmental
Program Analyst
November 2003



Sharda Kalia
Operations and Maintenance
Senior Engineer
October 2003



John Pacheco
California Energy Resources
Scheduling
Negotiations & Contract Mgr.
October 2003



Richard Sanchez
Operations and Maintenance
Principal Engineer
November 2003



Alma Vaughn
Fiscal Services
Accountant Trainee
December 2003

Forty Years of Service



Richard Baines
Safety of Dams
Supervising Engineer
August 2003



Carl Hauge
Planning and Local Assistance
Chief Hydrogeologist
November 2003

*Hydroelectric Plant

Promotions

Richard Allen
Environmental Services
Water Resources Technician II

Gary Bergeron
Management Services
Training Officer I

Charles Blalock
San Joaquin District
Staff Info. Systems Analyst

Linda Currie
Southern Field Division
Water Resources
Engineering Associate

Vilma Demafelis
Southern Field Division
Business Service Officer I

Tamara Kessler
Southern Field Division
Office Technician (Typing)

James Kletzing
Management Services
Training Officer I

Jeannie Lee
Office of the Chief Counsel
Staff Counsel

Warren Spirling
Operations and Maintenance
Senior Delineator

Nancy Vanburen
Planning & Local Assistance
Office Technician (Typing)

Phillip Vo
Bay-Delta Office
Staff Info. Systems Analyst

Michael Wagner
San Luis Field Division
Water Resources Technician II

Mitchell Waller
Environmental Services
Water Resources
Engineering Associate

Obituaries

BARBARA LORRAINE BAILEY, retired DWR Mailing List Coordinator, died on October 19 of cancer.

Barbara, a native of Sacramento, attended Hiram Johnson High School.

During her 17 years with DWR, Office Technician Barbara worked for Management Services' Records Management in every section, except two. As DWR's Mailing List Coordinator, she maintained more than 300 DWR mailing lists used throughout DWR. In addition to doing a great job in maintaining DWR People and DWR News newsletters mailing lists, she also transferred all of the mailing lists from the mainframe computer to a personal computer. Barbara married Land and Right of Way's Surveyor Supervisor **Bob Bailey** in 1994.

After their DWR retirements in 1997, Barbara and Bob became active members of DWR's Alumni Club. They both maintained DWR's Alumni mailing list and edited the Alumni newsletter.

"When Barbara retired, I was happy for her, but sad to see such a great employee leave," said **Mona Lopez**, retired Telecommunications' Associate Information Systems Analyst. "After I joined the Alumni Club, we made frequent calls to each other. I'm really going to miss not being able to call Barbara or see her at our monthly retired ladies luncheon."

Barbara is survived by her husband Bob, daughter Sheryl, stepdaughter Summer, stepson Ross, and three grandchildren. Barbara was preceded in death by her son David.



JAMES EDWARD LEY, retired Chief of Safety of Dams' Field Engineering Branch, died at the age of 81 on September 6 in Auburn, CA.

His 34-year State career began as a Junior Civil Engineer with Safety of Dams in Southern California. In addition to writing a report on the Baldwin Hills Dam Failure and inspecting State Water Project dams during their construction, he inspected various other Southern California dams.

In 1965, he transferred to the Division of Safety of Dams in Sacramento. A year later, he was promoted to Principal Engineer. After his retirement in 1985, Jim worked as a Retired Annuitant from 1985 to 1986 and from 1990 to 1997.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne, four children, and eleven grandchildren.



INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
DWR'S PERSONNEL OFFICE

Finding The Law

Researching the law is a full-time job. A high level of expertise is required to wade through an aggregation of government codes, court rulings, and California water law. That expertise is brought to DWR by **Mary Ann Parker**, Senior Law Librarian in the Office of the Chief Counsel.

"I decided to get my degree in Librarianship because I enjoy knowing where to find the answers," said Mary Ann.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in History at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Mary Ann earned her Master's degrees in Librarianship at San Jose State University and History at California State University at Fresno. She began her career in Law Librarianship with the California State Public Defender, where she worked for five years prior to joining DWR in 1989.

"I wanted to move to DWR because I wanted to learn another type of law. Criminal law and environmental law are very different," said Mary Ann.

Mary Ann's duties include cataloging new books for the library, answering reference questions from the public, and conducting special research projects for attorneys. In addition to overseeing law students working as DWR interns, she also provides legal references for lawyers from the Departments of Fish and Game, Forestry and Fire Protection, and Parks and Recreation.

Even with the recent availability of online legal research services, the Law Library maintains a large collection of legal reference books. Among the contents of the books are all laws enacted by



the California Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Judicial case reports from both State and federal courts also are available.

"I especially enjoy finding things in books because so many people now turn to their computer first and spend way too much time looking for information that is readily found in a book," said Mary Ann.

The Library also has books to help people find the law and newsletters dealing with environmental and water law. Other items available are at least one copy of every DWR Bulletin, atlases, dictionaries, books about the history of water in California and the West, and a research center including tables and study carrels.

Even after 14 years of painstaking research and fact-finding for DWR, Mary Ann continues to look forward to serving the Legal Office and the Department.

"The best part of my day is when I find something that other people think can't be found." ■

Birth Announcements: Congratulations to DWR Parents:

Jeremy Arrich, a Senior Engineer in the Division of Planning and Local Assistance, has a son named Joshua Riley Arrich, who was born on October 10 weighing 9 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Arthur Hinojosa, Chief of Operations and Maintenance's Operations Compliance and Studies Section, and **Tracy Hinojosa**, Engineer with Flood Management, have a daughter named Lidia Esperanza, who was born on June 17 weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Peter Wade, a Mechanical Engineer in the Division of Engineering, has a daughter named Hannah Marie Wade, who was born on October 16 weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Fred Feyer, Environmental Scientist of the Division of Environmental Services, has a daughter named Lindsey Lee, who was born on September 24 weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Brad Cavallo, Environmental Scientist of the Division of Environmental Services, has a son named Finnian, who was born on October 11 weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Scott Waller, Water Resources Engineering Associate of the Division of Environmental Services, has a son named Mason, who was born November 11 weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

DWR MISSION *Statement*

To manage the water resources
of California in cooperation
with other agencies,
to benefit the State's people,
and to protect, restore,
and enhance the natural
and human environments.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

DWR NEWS/People
Office of Water Education
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1104-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001